

EDWIN & FRANCIS SHRIVER HOUSE

146 West Main Street

At the beginning of the 19th century, Isaac Shriver, a prominent local merchant, owned the large triangular parcel of land bordered today by Pennsylvania Avenue, Main Street, and Union Street in Westminster. Just before the Civil War, he laid out this area into lots; however he reserved 1 3/4 acre near "The Forks" for himself (and his friends). On the southwest corner of this reserved lot he built, c. 1860, the house now numbered 146 West Main Street. In plan, this Shriver House is L-shaped with the gabled end of the L as part of a main facade; a shed roofed porch runs east of this gable, forming, more or less, a rectangle. The entire house is sheathed in white clapboard, which contrasts with the black louvered shutters (which flank all of the windows), the black slate roof, and the red tin on the front porch. An interesting strawberry leaf molding decorates all eaves of the house, and the several still-standing original out buildings. Edwin Shriver, who bought the house in 1896, is of national importance as of a prime force in establishing Rural Free Delivery service in the United States.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0704554504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Edwin and Francis Shriver House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

146 West Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

**PRESENT USE**

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

George R. Stottlemeyer

Telephone #: 848-5507

STREET & NUMBER

146 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 142

Folio #: 362

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Westminster Bicentennial Celebration

DATE

October 1964

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY ☒ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Society of Carroll County

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

At the beginning of the 19th century, Isaac Shriver, a prominent local merchant, owned the large triangular parcel of land bordered (today) by Pennsylvania Avenue, West Main Street, and Union Street in Westminster. Just before the Civil War, he laid out this area into lots; however, he reserved 1 3/4 acre near "The Forks" for himself (and his friends). On the southwest corner of this reserved lot, he built, c. 1860, the house numbered 146 West Main Street. In plan, this Shriver house is L shaped with a gable end of the L as part of the main facade; a shed-roofed porch runs east of this gable end, forming a rectangle. The entire house is sheathed in white clapboard, which contrasts with the black louvered shutters that frame all of the windows, the black slate roof, and the red tin of the front porch. The two gable-roofed sections are approximately the same dimensions: two stories plus an attic tall, and measuring about 30' x 20'. The section that puts its gable end to Main Street has two 2/2 windows regularly spaced on its two full floors, and a small 2/2 window in the center of the gable to light the attic. These windows, like all windows in the building, are simply enframed, have white wooden sills and black louvered shutters. The eaves of this gable end, and of the entire house, are decorated by bargeboards sawed in a pattern that resembles strawberry leaves, and with drop pendants at the corners of the building, and at the peak of each eave. The west facade of this section has 2 widely-spaced 2/2 windows regularly placed on each floor below the eaves-work. The section parallel with Main Street has five 4/4 windows (three on the second floor, two on the ground floor). These windows are all aligned. The entrance door is in the center of the facade, being the western bay of the Main Street section. It is a mid-Victorian, 4-panel door, flanked by sidelights and topped by a six-light transom. The east side of this section is blind.

Various additions have been made to the building on its north facade. Originally, there was a small ten foot square, shed-roofed kitchen to the north of the Maryland Avenue (west) section. This has two stories, with one 6/6 window to the south on its west facade, and a 6-panel Victorian door to the north on the ground floor. The north facade has a small 1/1 window towards the east, a louvered vent to the west, and a 3/3 window on the second floor. Later this section was doubled, with a solid addition being added to the east, solid, that is, except for the screened second-story porch. In the 1920's it was increased again, by a two-story section of the same dimensions as the older section, having a pair of 6/6 windows on the second floor and a large plate glass window on the ground floor; the east facade of this final addition contains one 4/4 window per floor. This small addition is the only change the house has experienced since the 1920's, inside or out. The interior originally had a double parlor arrangement to the west and a large hall and parlor plan in the eastern section. The additions are entered from the far northern room of the western section, and lead into

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

We have frequently noted the fondness Westminster's citizenry has had for things rural. They have built their homes following patterns practiced in the countryside, including the use of many outbuildings (of course these were necessary to house horses, carriages, servants). Sometimes these arrangements would truly give the impressions of "Country Living in the City": the City Directory has an engraving of 109 East Main Street (q.v.) from which one expects to hear the tinkling of cow bells; this property has changed its appearance since then, but here, at 146 West Main, the rural nature is still maintained. This atmosphere is created by the outbuildings, the trees, the wide porch, the box gardens, and the brick sidewalks; this house has the only remaining brick sidewalk on Main Street.

The house is also significant in the architectural history of Westminster in that it may well have been the first to utilize a plan that would be very popular in the later 19th century. All during the City's existence, the L-shaped house had been a favorite, but never with a gable end exposed to the street. This house, however, breaks that tradition and begins what will amount to an on glut of similar buildings composed of two perpendicular sections that don't attempt to hide their gable. (Later versions seemed eager to decorate the gable end by bay windows.) This form almost always had a porch across the front, and a porch is present here, although perhaps this porch is more finely executed - in its eaves decoration - than other examples would be, but that is a value judgment.

As noted, the house sits on a piece of land reserved by Isaac Shriver; after his death, the land passed to Francis Shriver, who was listed as living here in the 1887 City Directory, and thence to Edwin W. Shriver by Deed dated September 22, 1896 and recorded among the Land Records of Carroll County in Book 83, Page 287. The price of the house was \$3000. Edwin Shriver is nationally noted, as he was a prime force in establishing the first rural free delivery service in the United States. He sold the land to George W. Arnold on October 14, 1910 for \$6500 (35/6), who sold to George W. Hoff in 1923 (142/362). Hoff is the uncle of Mrs. George R. Stottlemeyer. Hoff died in the late 1920's, leaving the land to his wife, who died in 1963, leaving the land to their niece, who still, with her husband, lives in the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Being 15,356 square feet in a parcel of land reserved by Isaac Shriver after Shriver laid out this section of town, and being bounded by West Main Street, Maryland Avenue, a back alley, and the land of Michael Morelock, as shown on an 1877 map of the City of Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

April

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

each other, thus preserving the original plan. Two double fireplaces result in the house having two large corbel-capped brick chimneys, one to the east and one to the west. Chimneys are elaborately decorated with centrally recessed bricks.

Most of the house's original outbuildings remain. There was a small two-story servants' house that was originally towards the front of the house; the present owner's uncle had it moved to the rear. (It also has the same eaves treatment found on the main house, is covered in white clapboarding, and has green shutters.) A large two-story barn is in the northwest section of the lot; the present owner's uncle, George W. Hoff, was something of a mechanic, and hoped to open an automobile repair business on this property. Therefore, to expedite his efforts, he built a large garage between the barn and the old servants' house, which still exists today. The lot is large, and has something of a rural atmosphere with these many century old outbuildings, and fine plantings of boxwoods which line the brick sidewalks. Ancient linden trees shade the house to the south and west.

605/0



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657  
F-2

~~445~~?

CARR 455

146 W. MAWST.

W. PITMINSIDE

2. June 2/77

C. Weeks





CARR 455

146

~~146~~

CARR 455  
146 W. MAIN ST.  
WESTMINSTER  
SW parade 3/77  
C. Weckm